

**COUNCIL POLICY  
CITY OF CHULA VISTA**

**SUBJECT: TREES – PRESERVATION**

**POLICY  
NUMBER**

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE**

**PAGE**

(FORMERLY COUNCIL POLICY NO. 200-05)

576-05

09-07-1971

1 of 2

**ADOPTED BY:** Resolution No. 6192

**DATED:** 09-07-71

**AMENDED BY:**

**BACKGROUND**

The City Council has determined that the establishment, maintenance and overall preservation of street trees in the City is a matter of primary concern to the economic, environmental and aesthetic qualities of the City. Public health, safety and general welfare require that steps be taken to establish a policy for the preservation of street trees in the City and the replacement of said trees when and if it becomes necessary to remove the trees.

**PURPOSE**

Establishing a policy for the preservation of street trees in the City of Chula Vista.

**POLICY**

The following street tree policy shall be established:

1. **General Regulations**

It is the policy of the City Council of the City of Chula Vista to establish uniform guidelines throughout the City of Chula Vista for the purpose of preserving the maximum number of City street trees and encouraging the supplementation of their number by all of the citizens of the community.

2. **Basic Regulations of Tree Removal, Replacement and Planting**

a. **Uplifted Sidewalks**

When temporary patches caused by City trees adjacent to hazardous, uplifted sidewalks are no longer acceptable, the City may take corrective action by root pruning or by removing the offending tree.

The City will root prune when this corrective method is deemed feasible by the Public Works Department Personnel. The sidewalks will be repaired or replaced as required at City expense.

If root pruning is not feasible the City will remove the offending tree and replace it with an acceptable species. All costs of tree removal and/or replacement and all costs of sidewalk repair and/or replacement will be borne by the City.

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	576-05	09-07-1971	2 of 2

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b. Sewer Laterals

If a City street tree causes stoppage of a sewer lateral within the public right of way, the City will replace the sewer lateral at its expense. The Tree Maintenance Foreman must consult on site with a private plumber retained by the property owner, and agree that the City street tree is the offending agent. If the sewer stoppage occurs on private property then the cost of the sewer lateral replacement shall be borne by the property owner.

c. Diseased, Dying Trees

The City will remove or replace dead trees. The City will remove and replace diseased trees only when reasonably applied pest control or other remedial measures will not save the tree.

Special Request for Removal

The following conditions must be met to permit tree removal when for reasons of inconvenience a property owner requests a particular street tree to be removed:

- (1) The replacement tree will eventually improve the area's appearance.
- (2) It is determined after consultation with the Landscape Planner that the tree removal will not aesthetically impair the character of the area.
- (3) The tree must be of the wrong species for its location.
- (4) The tree will go to the Street Tree Committee for recommendation.

If, in the opinion of the Tree Maintenance Foreman, the above conditions are met, the City may issue a permit to the property owner to remove the offending tree at his expense. A condition of the permit will be a deposit by the property owner to discover City tree replacement costs. Replacement shall be with a 15-gallon tree selected by the City.

3. Street Widening

When it has been determined that a proposed street widening project will be constructed in the resident or property owners shall be notified immediately concerning the loss of street trees adjacent to their property and shall be requested to dedicate a street tree easement on their property to the City. One of two methods will be used for replacing the effected street tree.

- a. City personnel may plant a 15-gallon tree of City-selected species in the street tree easement as soon as practicable after receiving the easement dedication.
- b. Upon approval of the Street Tree Committee, consideration will be given to relocating existing street trees onto private property provided that the property owner grants to the City a street tree easement.